

CLEARY GOTTlieb STEEN & HAMILTON LLP

ONE LIBERTY PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10006-1470
(212) 225-2000
FACSIMILE (212) 225-3999
WWW.CLEARYGOTTLIEB.COM

WASHINGTON, DC • PARIS • BRUSSELS • LONDON • MOSCOW
FRANKFURT • COLOGNE • ROME • MILAN • HONG KONG
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Writer's Direct Dial: +1 (212) 225-2550
E-Mail: lliman@cgsh.com

LAURENT ALPERT
VICTOR I. LEWKOW
LESLIE N. SILVERMAN
ROBERT L. TORTORELLO
LEE C. BUCHHEIT
JAMES M. PEASLEE
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ANDREW WEAVER
HELENA K. GRANNIS
GRANT M. BINDER
MEYER H. FEDIDA
JOHN V. HARRISON
CAROLINE F. HAYDAY
RESIDENT COUNSEL
LOUISE M. PARENT
OF COUNSEL

August 17, 2015

VIA ECF

Hon. Andrew J. Peck, U.S.M.J.
Southern District of New York
Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse
500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 20D
New York, New York 10007

Re: Rio Tinto plc v. Vale S.A., et al., Civil Action No. 14-cv-3042 (RMB) (AJP) (S.D.N.Y.)

Dear Judge Peck:

We write on behalf of defendant Vale in response to Rio Tinto's August 11 letter seeking reconsideration (Dk. 316) (the "Letter") of the Court's discovery order and the Court's ensuing Order denying in part and conditionally granting in part that request to the extent of directing that Vale "run the word Keira through the documents gathered from the custodians (other than those documents already produced), limited to the time period of Sept. [t]o Dec. 2008, and advise Rio Tinto of the number of documents that are 'hit' by that search term" (Dk. 317).

Vale has run the search as directed. The search returned 21 emails, 9 of which are duplicates, for a total of 12 unique emails, all of which have either already been produced to Rio Tinto or are slated for production. With the exception of one document, the relevant text concerning Mr. Keira has already been produced to Rio Tinto, including the most complete version of the email chain described in Rio Tinto's letter.

The exercise only confirms the correctness of Your Honor's order quashing Rio Tinto's Request No. 78, which sought entirely irrelevant information regarding Vale's relationship with a consultant in Guinea. Rio Tinto claimed it had "new evidence" regarding the consultant's relevance (which was in reality old evidence it had since June 30 but had not bothered to review or translate before raising this very issue at the conference, despite its complaints about the paucity of Vale's production) because it identified a document indicating Vale was interested in

Simandou prior to its negotiations with Rio Tinto. But this information is neither new nor evidence of Rio Tinto's claims. There is nothing sinister about the desire of a mining company to acquire a mining asset, nor in the use of consultants – an approach notably employed by Rio Tinto in Guinea.¹ Vale has never disputed that it was interested in Simandou and Rio Tinto has never disputed that in July 2008 the Government of Guinea reduced Rio Tinto's rights in Simandou Blocks to exploration permits. Vale's interest in Simandou was the reason Vale chose to enter into discussions with Rio Tinto about that asset and the reason Vale preserved its ability after the Rio Tinto negotiations ended to pursue Simandou, either with the Government of Guinea or whoever obtained the rights to Simandou from the Government of Guinea.

Rio Tinto also failed to mention in its Letter that the document at issue establishes that Vale was *not* in a conspiracy with BSGR – the actual allegation that Rio Tinto has laid against Vale. To the contrary, the document shows that Vale did not want to do business with BSGR, which at that point had no rights in Simandou.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lewis J. Liman
Lewis J. Liman

cc: All counsel of record (via ECF)

¹ Among other things, discovery reveals that shortly after the loss of its concession in December 2008, Rio Tinto sought out and ultimately contracted with a well-connected consultant (a Ms. Webster) believed to be an advisor to a number of African presidents – whose motto was that it was better to be felt rather than seen – and who was in direct contact with the new President of Guinea in January 2009 immediately after President Conte's death.